

Make Plans for Summer

Summer is a special time for family fun. Warm summer evenings seem custom-made for after-work family barbecues and neighborhood softball games. As soon as you know the dates of your children's summer holiday, start planning.

For the Whole Family

Whether you have vacation from work or not, there are many ways to enjoy the summer with your family.

- If your summer plans include a trip out of town, get your kids involved in the excitement by talking about the places you'll visit, reading about your destination, looking at maps and buying travel gear.
- If you plan a road trip, establish a base in one location. Take day trips from the base to surrounding sites so your children will have a familiar place to come "home" to at the end of each day.
- Consider weekend family getaways to state parks and beaches. Many places offer camp sites and cabins. If one parent's vacation time is limited, you may be able to find a cabin within commuting distance from that parent's job.
- During the summer, kids love amusement parks, boat rides, visits to the zoo and just about any excuse to be outside.

For Kids

Chances are your children will have more free time on their hands than you do during the summer. How can you keep them occupied while you're at work?

- Day camps sponsored by community organizations can include a wide variety of activities, such as swimming, arts and crafts, horseback riding, dance classes and other sports. Some have transportation arrangements, such as a bus that picks up children at specific locations.
- Neighbors and other parents may be happy to watch your children while you're at work. Consider hiring a college student to prepare meals and drive children to sporting events. Grandparents and relatives who live in other locations may enjoy spending time with your children during part of the summer.
- Overnight camps give older children a chance to develop independence while enjoying the pleasures of the great outdoors. Some camps are sponsored by scouting organizations, others by religious groups. Many focus on a particular kind of activity, such as horseback riding, the arts, drama and music.
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